Approved For Release 1999/09/07 : CIA-RDP75-00001R000200010013-1

OCT 27 1962

Front Page | Page | Page

MOBILE, ALA.
PRESS

EVENING 70,760
SUNDAY 89,607

OCT 17 1962

Pers 2 J. B. DONOVAN
x Dot 4 Tractors
x Dg 2

CPYRGHT

CPYRGHT

Prison Ransom Mess May Bring New Embarrassment For U.S.

Thanks partially to the master-minding of Atty. Gen. Robert F. Kennedy, Fidel Castro is making the United States look ridiculous again.

Despite all statements to the contrary, the United States government, working through Robert Kennedy, has had a hand in latest futile efforts to ransom Castro-held prisoners.

Ostensibly, the whole ransom deal is being handled by James B. Donovan, a New York lawyer. But U.S. News & World Report, one of the nation's most reputable publications, has this to say about the matter:

"Officially, there was silence. But it is known that the Department of State was in close touch with the negotiations from the beginning.

"Officially, Mr. Donovan was representing an organization of Cuban refugees in this country. But over the past few months he conferred several times with Atty. Gen. Robert F. Kennedy.

"In addition to his contacts with Mr. Donovan, the attorney general has kept in touch with Cuban refugee leaders.

"Mr. Donovan's role in the negotiations with Cuba tended to reinforce reports that the government's part in the affair went beyond expressions of sympathy. It was recalled that the same New York lawyer acted on behalf of the Central Intelligence Agency earlier this year in arranging the release of U2 pilot Francis Gary Powers from Russia."

Perhaps Castro knows that he is dealing with an inept young man in Robert Kennedy and will keep pressing his hand until he can more deeply hit the U.S. Treasury for ransom.

Meanwhile, Robert's effort to make the administration look good, on the eve of the November elections, appears to be bogging down as miserably as did the CIA-directed Cuban invasion attempt.

This is America of 1962—a far cry from the America in 1797 which refused a bribe demand of France and that sent the U.S. Navy to Morocco to free a captured American citizen in 1904.

Communists evidently have learned that the U.S. is easy picking in the ransom field and can be expected to exploit the situation to the hilt.

Approved For Release 1999/09/07 : CIA-RDP75-00001R000200010013-1